

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 MCT-01 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7158
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 02582

FOR INR/RNA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PLO
SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN THE GDR

REF: STATE 091578

1. FOLLOWING RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL:

(A) AN OFFICE OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION
WAS ESTABLISHED IN EAST BERLIN IN AUGUST 1973. NEUES
DEUTSCHLAND REPORTED THAT THE OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED ON THE
BASIS OF FURTHERING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF THE SOCIALIST UNITY (COMMUNIST) PARTY (SED) AND THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PLO. ITS PURPOSES WERE DES-
CRIBED AS FURTHERING UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF
THE GDR AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND TO DEEPEN "SOLI-
DARITY IN THE JOINT STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND
ZIONISM", ETC.

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(B) THE PLO OFFICE IS LOCATED IN THE PANKOW SECTION OF
EAST BERLIN AT SCHOENHOLZERWEG NR. 19. TELEPHONE NUMBER
IS 48 28 670. THE CHIEF OF THE OFFICE IS NABIL KOULAILAT
(KULEILAT). THE SIZE OF THE OFFICE STAFF IS NOT KNOWN.
IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE PLO OFFICE ENJOYS DIPLOMATIC
IMMUNITY IN THE GDR, BUT WE HAVE NO FIRM INFORMATION ON
THIS POINT. THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO TAKE PART, HOWEVER,

IN NORMAL DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS/EVENTS HERE. IT IS REPORTED BY SOURCES IN WEST BERLIN WITH ACCESS TO THE WEST BERLIN POLICE THAT THE PLO OFFICE STAFF USES VEHICLES OF THE CZECH EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN WHEN TRAVELING TO THE WESTERN SECTORS OF THE CITY.

(C) TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE PLO DOES NOT MAINTAIN OTHER ACCREDITED OFFICES IN THE GDR OR EAST BERLIN. HOWEVER, THE PLO IS A REGULAR PARTICIPANT AT THE TWICE-YEARLY LEIPZIG FAIR, WHERE IT OPERATES AN INFORMATION AND DISPLAY EXHIBIT IN THE HALL USED FOR COUNTRY EXHIBITS.

(D) TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, OTHER PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOT REPRESENTED IN EAST BERLIN. HOWEVER, THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT SOME NON-PLO GROUPS HAVE USED THE SYRIAN AND IRAQI EMBASSIES TO THE GDR FOR PURPOSES OF REPRESENTING THEIR INTERESTS HERE.

2. WHILE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE GDR IS VERY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE PLO AND, WHILE IT DOES NOT SUPPORT PLO POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN ALL INSTANCES, THE GDR HAS IDENTIFIED ITSELF PUBLICLY ON MANY OCCASIONS WITH THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND WITH THE PLO AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT CAUSE. ARAFAT AND OTHER PLO LEADERS HAVE VISITED THE GDR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND PALESTINIANS ARE PRESENT IN THE GDR FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AT LEAST. WHILE WE HAVE NO
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DIRECT INFORMATION ON DIRECT MATERIAL SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE GDR TO THE PLO (OTHER THAN OCCASIONAL HIGHLY PUBLICIZED CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES BY "SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES"), THE LEVEL AND FREQUENCY OF OFFICIAL CONTACTS INDICATE THAT THE PLO PROBABLY HAS MORE THAN A RHETORICAL INTEREST IN ITS TIES WITH THE GDR. BOLEN

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